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SENTINEL CHICKENS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

San Bernardino. The San Bernardino County Mosquito and Vector Control Program (Vector Control) received confirmation of two chickens in its Fontana sentinel flock that tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The flock is located in the area of Sierra Avenue and Arrow Highway. Blood samples were obtained from the chickens and sent for analysis on July 27th. The positive analysis results confirm that the disease has become more active in San Bernardino County.

Vector Control staff are actively looking for mosquito breeding sources and trapping adult mosquitoes for virus testing. Mosquitoes are dependent on standing water for breeding, so residents are encouraged to look for and eliminate any stagnant water on their properties.

It is at this time of the year that mosquito activity is greatest. Due to stagnant pools at foreclosed and abandoned properties, Vector Control expects to see an increase in mosquito activity, which increases the risk of WNV to the public.

WNV is an ongoing public health concern. The public needs to be vigilant by reporting mosquito breeding sites to the County’s Mosquito and Vector Control Program at **(909) 388-4600**, and using personal protection.

San Bernardino County citizens can protect themselves from mosquito bites by taking the following precautions:

- **Drain or Dump...**Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.
- **Dawn and Dusk...**Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress...**Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.

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- **DEET...**Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.
- **Doors...**Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering home.

Horses are susceptible to WNV, but a vaccine is available for them. Horse owners are advised to contact their veterinarians about timely vaccinations.

The San Bernardino County Mosquito and Vector Control Program encourages the public to participate in the WNV surveillance program by reporting dead birds to the State West Nile Virus toll-free hotline at 1 (877) WNV- BIRD, or on-line at WWW.WNV.CA.GOV.

If you are in the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Montclair, or Rancho Cucamonga call (909) 635-0307 for West Valley Vector Control District. For more information about WNV or to report dead birds, visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/vectorcontrol.

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